

Kurze and Sanger: The Rocky Road to the William Mulloy Library  
**The Rocky Road to the William Mulloy Library**

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A group of academic investigators originally envisioned building the William Mulloy Library on Rapa Nui to fulfill the last wishes of the late Dr. William Mulloy, archaeologist at the University of Wyoming, and to honor his truly seminal archaeological restoration work on the island. Our goal was to provide a central research facility with a comprehensive collection of papers, books, and other materials relating to Rapa Nui and Polynesia with Dr. Mulloy's collection, left to the islanders, as its core.

Initially encouraged by a well-known international non-profit organization based in New York, the founding members of the Easter Island Foundation/Fundación Rapa Nui confidently (and naively) assumed that after incorporating as a non-profit organization in California in 1989, funding would be their most challenging task. It soon became apparent that obstacles existed in other areas—logistics of construction, for example—as well as in international politics and communication among the geographically diverse members themselves.

New non-profit groups such as the Easter Island Foundation (EIF) first need to outline their work and thus formulate their mission. The primary mission of the EIF is to assist the educational needs of the Rapa Nui. Our first major project was to collect under one roof the large amount of research that demonstrates the vulnerability of a tiny remote island; to make available to islanders and outsiders alike the documented example of a society's demise after it had depleted its irreplaceable natural resources. Those holdings of the William Mulloy Library (WML) inventory that did not exist elsewhere (e.g. unpublished material) would be duplicated and stored in the United States, at either the University of Wyoming or UCLA in Los Angeles.

An important second step was to form a Board of Directors. After much thought and advice from interested friends, the Executive Board's final decision is on our current stationery.

Unfortunately the core EIF folk lacked the appropriate skills to accomplish a project of this scope; all expertise as scientific researchers and good will toward the islanders notwithstanding! Was there a business head in the crowd? No. Nor was there a lawyer, a CPA or even a bookkeeper. Unfortunately, talents for academic disciplines are not generally combined with the ability to procure or provide funds. Truly we were international innocents, so geographically removed from each other that even regular meetings and communication were difficult (prior to the ubiquitous FAX).

Nevertheless, with the help of friends we staged several successful Rapa Nui Reunions in California and, in 1991, our Board of Directors Chairman, Dr. William Liller, co-authored a written agreement with the Chilean Dirección de Bibliotecas, Archivos, y Museos (DBAM) that outlined: 1. "plan for the Library" (its size, style of architecture and its site on Rapa Nui); 2. details of the Library's "construction" (who will pay for what); and 3. established a Committee of Operations to be composed of one representative from DBAM, one representa-

tive from the Sociedad de Amigos de Rapa Nui (of which our Chairman is a member) and one representative from the Universidad de Chile whose Department of Architecture has overseen the archaeological survey of Rapa Nui. DBAM was to pay the salaries of the library personnel (a librarian and a full-time caretaker) and the costs of utilities and general maintenance of the building and furniture. The EIF was to purchase books, magazines, photographic material and new office equipment, plus maintain the office equipment owned by the EIF.

Some of you may recall our ground breaking ceremony at Tahai in 1991. At that time the Alcalde of Hanga Roa offered to provide workers to build the library. Thus the WML would join with the Englert Archaeological Museum to form an outstanding Polynesian center on Rapa Nui. We anticipated that the WML would be ready for occupancy by early 1991.

But then the Municipalidad de Hanga Roa announced that funds to pay Rapa Nui construction workers would not be available for the foreseeable future. We were offered a room in Hanga Roa's newly opened Cultural Compound from Alberto Hotus, Hanga Roa's Alcalde, but we felt that its location at the ocean's shoreline was an inappropriate environment for maintaining books and other paper materials.

After much soul searching among themselves and consultation with Emily Mulloy and Dr. Mulloy's colleague, Gonzalo Figueroa, the Executive Committee made a decision. A temporary off-island site would be sought for the WML. Obviously the site should be in continental Chile since the bulk of the Mulloy collection was at Gonzalo's home in Chile, and the WML's eventual transfer to Rapa Nui would be facilitated.

Fortunately, our first choice, the Fonck Museum in Viña del Mar, was available. The Fonck has a fine collection of modern Rapa Nui pieces collected between 1940 and 1970, and the staff has helped many of us in our research over the past seven years. Indeed some members of the Executive Committee of the EIF have come to know well a number of the staff members of the Fundación Fonck, especially its former Curator José Miguel Ramírez, its late President Dr. Roberto Gajardo, Vice President Norma Sanguinetti [now president], and Directors Adolpho Fernandez, John Gallaher and Carlos Villanelo. We are certain that current feelings of mutual trust and confidence will continue to exist.

The EIF's Chairman was able to negotiate an acceptable, reciprocal arrangement for adequate space at the Fonck to house the WML's present collection. For this we not only owe thanks to Dr. Liller but also to the Fonck's Board of Directors. The Fonck Museum provided the EIF with space in a newly-furnished room, and in return Museum personnel have been given access to the WML's photocopier and computer/word-processor.

Thus, while awaiting further developments on the island, the Biblioteca William Mulloy exists now on the continent ensconced in its new space at the Fonck, announced by a

handsome shingle outside the building and an engraved sign on the library door. To the Mulloy collection of over 500 volumes and several hundred reprints has now been added nearly 600 books bought or donated by EIF members and many other enthusiasts including several Chilean *Rapanuiphiles*. A unique part of the shelved items is an extremely valuable collection of 84 volumes of photocopies of newspaper and magazine articles about Easter Island, some rather ancient. The copies were made by and purchased from an employee of the Biblioteca Nacional in Santiago.

The furnishings, all new, include sturdy bookcases, librarian's desk, a pair of file cabinets, and work table all constructed especially for the WML by expert cabinet maker Carlos Vargas. All the library holdings have been catalogued both on cards and in the computer; included are synopses of all the Biblioteca Nacional collection of articles. At present, work is underway to re-sleeve and catalogue the nearly 20,000 photographs, including 7000 negatives, taken by Dr. Mulloy and his associates.

Ana Betty Haoa Rapahango, a young Rapanui woman living in nearby Quilpue, has been hired as librarian for the WML. She received excellent references from her former employer, the Corporación Nacional Forestal (CONAF), and has completed an intensive course on library management with a capable and interested librarian at the Instituto Norteamericano in Viña del Mar. Furthermore, Ms Haoa is fully computer-literate having taken an advanced course in PC usage. Assisting Dr. Liller and the new librarian to catalog 33 boxes of WML books is *Rapanuiphile* and volunteer Rose Mary Wallace, formerly an Executive Secretary with the Chilean Ministry of Mines, and who joined the EIF Executive Board as Vice President for Latin American contacts.

Certain decisions need to be made before the WML is to be established on the island of Rapa Nui:

1. Clarification or re-drafting of our written agreement with DBAM.
2. The choice and training of a librarian for the island library.
3. Acquisition, installation and maintenance of appropriate equipment for the island library.
4. A decision as to the future of the WML premises on the continent.

It is clear that DBAM is as anxious as we are to establish the WML on the island, and to this end vice-president Wallace and Board Chairman Liller are working closely with DBAM's Coordinador Nacional de Museos in Santiago and with the current Director of the Sebastián Englert Museum, Claudio Gómez. The draft of a new agreement has been written and is under serious consideration by all parties, and several promising candidates for the island librarianship have been identified.


Meanwhile, the well-equipped WML located in the Fonck Museum in Vina del Mar continues to be both an attractive and an active center of studies with an able librarian recently promoted to the position of library Director.

Those of us involved in the WML project have had important lessons in patience and flexibility over the past few years, and we are pleased to have had this opportunity to represent the international membership of the EIF. We heartily thank all of you here today at the University of Wyoming; especially George Gill, Emily Ross Mulloy and Gonzalo Figueroa, for your continued generosity, enthusiasm and faith in this first project of the EIF, building and furnishing the WML.

This paper has reviewed the story of building the WML. The project at first seemed deceptively straightforward. On Rapa Nui however, nothing is ever truly predictable. We soon became entangled in the arenas of Chilean bureaucracy and the machinations of international politics. However, the Executive Committee of the EIF reports good progress on all fronts.

Certainly fundraising continues to be of primary importance to the Board of Directors, and the Executive Committee feels that the WML's recent, dramatic progress serves well the interest and support of its donors. We feel that our mission is worthy, our will is strong, and we will continue to persevere. However, we continue to need your much appreciated help and support. Please help us to raise an endowment fund to maintain the WML!

For further information on the holdings of the WML, write to the Director, Ana Betty Haoa Rapahango; Casilla 437; Vina del Mar, Chile. The Museo Sociedad Fonck is located at 4 Norte 784 in Viña del Mar.

 A word to the wise. Due to various increases beyond our control, rates for RNJ are going up in 1998; smart *Rapanuiphiles* may want to renew their subscription to the *Journal* before the end of this year! The expiration date for a subscription can be found on the address label, following the name of addressee.